



NEWS RELEASE

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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Roberson Named to Joint Federal/State Task Force

Nashville, Tennessee – Dr. Eddie Roberson, chief of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority's (TRA) Consumer Services and External Affairs Division, has been appointed to a special task force dedicated to the support and enforcement of rules associated with Internet-based emergency 911 calls.

The Joint Federal/State VoIP Enhanced 911 Enforcement Task Force – a committee comprised of public utility regulatory officials – will look at ways to inform the general public about Internet-based 911 calls and ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Internet-based emergency 911 rules. The Task Force members were appointed by the FCC and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

“In this age of expanding communications technologies, I am honored to serve on a committee whose aim is to ensure that consumers and providers understand the rights and obligations of Internet-based 911 calling,” said Roberson.

Internet-based calling, also known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), enables persons to transmit telephone calls using the Internet. The FCC recently ordered VoIP providers to provide their customers with notice that 911 emergency services via the Internet may not be currently available or may be limited in scope. The FCC also set a deadline of November 28 for all VoIP providers to implement 911 service.

Tennessee is at the forefront of 911 deployment. In June 2005, the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board announced that Tennessee was the third state in the nation to achieve 100 percent deployment of enhanced 911 services. The Interim Executive Director of the Board is Lynn Questell.

For more information on Internet-based calling, visit www.fcc.gov/voip, and for more information on 911 service generally, visit www.tennessee.gov/commerce/911.

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